

REMARKS/AMENDMENTS

Reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-3, 5-20 and 24-29 are pending in the present application, with claims 4, 21-23 and 30-37 having been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2-3, 5-6, 9, 13-14, 16, 19-20, 24-25 and 27 have been amended. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative, Lara Northrop, during the telephone interview on November 16, 2005.

Claim Objections

Claim 13 has been objected to due to an informality identified in line 2, specifically, the word "exist" should be "exit" as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 13 has been amended to recite this correction.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase "the extended portion comprises projections" was rejected as allegedly being vague and indefinite. Claim 16 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, "wherein the extended portion comprises at least one projection, the projection extending substantially perpendicular from a longitudinal axis of the extended portion, and the second element comprises at least two pieces structured and arranged to be fitted together over the at least one projection." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in the Applicants' specification at page 11, lines 1-2, and in Figures 12-14. Applicants submit that this amendment to claim 16 fully addresses and overcomes the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regards as the invention. Specifically, the phrase "radially-expandable system

comprising a plurality of offset wedges and a fastener” was rejected as allegedly being vague and indefinite. Claim 24 has been amended to recite, *inter alia*, “a radially-expandable system comprising a plurality of generally triangular offset wedges and a tightenable fastener disposed within the plurality of wedges, wherein the fastener is disposed within at least one wedge at a position that is off-center from at least one other wedge.” Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in the Applicants’ specification at page 15, lines 5-25, and in Figures 26-27. Applicants submit that this amendment to claim 24 fully addresses and overcomes the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-3, 6-12, 14-15, 18-19, and 26-29 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doyle (U.S. Patent No. 6,189,222). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite “A lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle; and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head.” Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claims 1 and 2 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25. Applicants have also amended independent claim 26 to recite “An articulated lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head; and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle.” Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claim 26 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25.

As discussed with Examiner Chambers, the amendments to claims 1 and 26 clearly distinguish claims 1 and 26 of the present application from the Doyle reference. Doyle discloses a shaving razor handle extension having a gripping head for receiving and securing a shaving razor handle within the shaving razor handle extension. Doyle does not disclose a lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head as

recited by Applicants' amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, Doyle does not disclose an articulated lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head, and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle. Therefore, Applicants assert that amended claims 1 and 26 of the present application are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Doyle. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-3, 6-12, 14-15, and 18-19 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. Dependent claims 27-29 depend directly from independent claim 26 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. In addition, these dependent claims recite additional features which, when considered in combination with the elements of claim 1 or claim 26, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Doyle. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-15, 17-19 and 25-29 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schiefer (U.S. Patent No. 4,367,871). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite "A lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle; and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claims 1 and 2 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25. Applicants have also amended independent claim 26 to recite "An articulated lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head; and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claim 26 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25.

As discussed with Examiner Chambers, the amendment to claims 1 and 26 clearly distinguish claims 1 and 26 of the present application from the Schiefer reference. Schiefer discloses a training tennis racquet having a handle that is hinged between an elongated handle member and a second member of the handle, shown in Figures 1-6 of Schiefer, such that improper stroking technique results in the ball rebounding off the tennis racquet net face in an uncontrolled

manner (column 4, lines 20-33). Schiefer does not disclose a lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head as recited by Applicants' amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, Schiefer does not disclose an articulated lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head, and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle. Therefore, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 26 of the present application are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Schiefer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5-15, 17-19 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. Dependent claims 27-29 depend directly from independent claim 26 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. In addition, these dependent claims recite additional features which, when considered in combination with the elements of claim 1 or claim 26, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Schiefer. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 19-20 and 26-29 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hubbard (U.S. Patent No. 303,517). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite "A lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle; and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claims 1 and 2 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25. Applicants have also amended independent claim 26 to recite "An articulated lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head; and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claim 26 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25.

As discussed with Examiner Chambers, the amendment to claims 1 and 26 clearly distinguish claims 1 and 26 of the present application from the Hubbard reference. Hubbard discloses a window cleaner having an adjustable two-part head for cleaning windows, two plates

connected to the head, a flange disposed within an opening of one of the plates, and a ball socket connecting the plates to a sanitation handle, wherein water is held within the head to allow automatic transfer to a surface for washing. Hubbard does not disclose a lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head as recited by Applicants' amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, Hubbard does not disclose an articulated lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head, and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle. Therefore, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 26 of the present application are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Hubbard.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-3 and 19-20 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. Dependent claims 27-29 depend directly from independent claim 26 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. In addition, these dependent claims recite additional features which, when considered in combination with the elements of claim 1 or claim 26, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Hubbard. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5, 13, 19 and 25-26 presently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ficke (U.S. Patent No. 3,357,035). In response, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite "A lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle; and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claims 1 and 2 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25. Applicants have also amended independent claim 26 to recite "An articulated lacrosse stick comprising: a lacrosse stick handle; a lacrosse head; and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle." Basis for this amendment can be found, for example, in originally submitted claim 26 and shown in Figures 1-2, 8-9B, 20-21, and 24A-25.

As discussed with Examiner Chambers, the amendment to claims 1 and 26 clearly distinguish claims 1 and 26 of the present application from the Ficke reference. Ficke discloses a brush for painting and an extension pole attached to the brush by a socket mechanism. Ficke does not disclose a lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head connected to the lacrosse stick handle and an articulation mechanism disposed between the lacrosse stick handle and the lacrosse stick head as recited by Applicants' amended independent claim 1. Furthermore, Ficke does not disclose an articulated lacrosse stick comprising a lacrosse stick handle, a lacrosse head, and means for articulating the lacrosse head with respect to the lacrosse stick handle. Therefore, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 26 of the present application are not anticipated by or obvious in view of Ficke. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 2-3, 5, 13, 19 and 25 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1 and are believed patentable for the reasons stated herein. In addition, these dependent claims recite additional features which, when considered in combination with the elements of claim 1, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Ficke. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Amendment of Dependent Claims to Correspond to Proper Antecedent Basis

Dependent claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 13, and 25 each depend from independent claim 1 and have each been amended to recite "lacrosse head" and/or "lacrosse stick handle" where amendment was necessary to correspond to the proper antecedent basis of amended claim 1. Dependent claims 3, 14, 19 and 20 have been amended to properly depend from amended independent claim 1 in view of the amendments to claim 1. Dependent claim 27 depends from independent claim 26 and has been amended to recite "lacrosse head" and "lacrosse stick handle" to correspond to the proper antecedent basis of amended claim 1.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments set forth herein, it is submitted that claims 1-3, 5-20 and 24-29 are patentable over the cited references and, therefore, are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued for these allowable claims. In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with the present application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to expedite the handling of such matters.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lara A. Northrop', written in black ink.

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